



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

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To all Michigan Public Libraries, Head Start Programs, Great Start Readiness Programs, and Public and Private Schools serving grades K-2:

Welcome to the Michigan Reads! One-State, One-Children's Book program presented by the Library of Michigan with generous sponsorship from Target and additional support from the Library of Michigan Foundation and HarperCollins Publishers. The featured book for 2013 is *Woolbur*, written by Leslie Helakoski and illustrated by Lee Harper. **We encourage the reading of *Woolbur* with children statewide during the months of September and October.**

The Library of Michigan is pleased to provide this kit of 2013 Michigan Reads! materials to encourage and enable you to share the book and program activities with children. **If you are in a school, Head Start program or Great Start Readiness program, please coordinate the sharing of these resources among classrooms and the library.** Use the enclosed materials to promote early childhood literacy and the enjoyment of reading to children and with children to the families of your students or patrons. A curriculum crosswalk is available for the school age activities.

In *Woolbur*, the pages of the book are full of movement and activity as a lamb named Woolbur finds creative ways to go about his day. When Woolbur is asked to do things, he finds original ways to accomplish everyday tasks and shares his ideas with others. The story, the language, the joyfulness of Woolbur's actions, and the wonderful illustrations all come together to make *Woolbur* a "go to" book for both children and older readers as they learn how to go about their own day.

The 2013 Michigan Reads! program will be kicked off on Monday, September 9, 2013, in conjunction with International Literacy Day on September 8th. Local libraries and schools will be reading *Woolbur* aloud that day to children all over the state. We anticipate that Michigan Reads! programming will continue in libraries and classrooms throughout September and October. During those months, author Leslie Helakoski will tour the state, presenting special Michigan Reads! programs at selected Michigan libraries and schools. The schedule is listed on the Michigan Reads! site at www.michigan.gov/michiganreads.

LIBRARY OF MICHIGAN

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The contents of this kit are:

- A hardcover copy of *Woolbur* (by Leslie Helakoski; illustrated by Lee Harper; published by HarperCollins Publishers)
- A Programming and Resource Guide produced specifically for Michigan Reads! 2013;
- Bookmarks providing early literacy tips for parents and caregivers;
- Stickers to give to children as they participate; and
- A poster for your library or classroom on which children can write their name after they listen to or read the story

Program materials and other resources for librarians, teachers, parents and caregivers are also available on the Michigan Reads! website at www.michigan.gov/michiganreads. There are reading lists, developmental guidelines, a curriculum crosswalk for the K-2 activities, and a promotions toolkit, among many other things.

Finally, this kit includes a reminder for our program survey. Your feedback on the number of programs you have held and how many children have participated is very important to us. We need it to report back to our major funding sources for the program to encourage them to continue to support Michigan Reads! in coming years. **We strongly encourage and request your participation in this survey which includes an opportunity for you to verify your contact information and mailing address so we can include your school or public library in the mailing of Michigan Reads! materials next year.**

Michigan Reads! began in 2004 as a new approach to the community-wide, “one book” programs gaining popularity throughout the country. While most of these efforts focus on adults or teens, Michigan Reads! is unique in that it seeks to boost early-childhood literacy by featuring a book geared specifically towards young children. The program promotes the value and benefits of reading early and often to children, encourages family bonding through reading, and increases awareness and usage of Michigan’s public and school libraries as excellent resources for learning.

Yours truly,



Nancy R. Robertson
State Librarian